

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, UNHRC, UG

SUBJECT: 34TH HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION MEETING: HUMAN RIGHTS
IN UGANDA

1. AT A MEETING OF THE NY WEDS CONCERNED ABOUT THE UPCOMING HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION (HRC) MEETING, SWEDEN (THE NORDIC REP ON THE HRC) WAS ASKED WHAT IT INTENDED TO DO TO FOLLOW THROUGH ON THE NORDIC RESOLUTION ON UGANDA AT THE GA. SWEDISH REP (NORDENFELT, BACK FROM SICK LEAVE, WHO WILL BE AT GENEVA) SAID THAT THEY WERE HOPING SOMEONE ELSE WOULD TAKE THE INITIATIVE, PREFERABLY AN AFRICAN NATION. (THE DUTCH REP CHARACTERIZED THIS AS "UTOPIAN.") SWEDISH REP SAID THAT THEY WOULD DO SOMETHING IF NO ONE ELSE WAS GOING TO.

2. IT WAS ALSO ANNOUNCED AT THE MEETING THAT JUKKA WALTISAARI, (FINNISH REP WHO SHEPHERDED THE NORDIC RESOLUTION THROUGH THIRD COMMITTEE) WILL BE IN GENEVA, HOPEFULLY THE WEEK OF THE UGANDA DEBATE. THE SWEDE ANNOUNCED THAT "HE WILL BE THE SEDISH

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DELEGATE THAT WEEK," WHICH MEANS THE SEDES WILL PROBABLY RELY SOMEWHAT ON FINNISH ADVICE IN DEALING WITH THIS MATTER.

3. THE UK ANNOUNCED THAT ON THE UGANDA MATTER IT WOULD NOT TAKE THE LEAD BUT WOULD SPEAK IN SUPPORT OF ANY REASONABLE ACTION. UK ALSO MENTIONED THAT CANADA HAD ALREADY DECIDED TO BE OUT FRONT ON THIS ISSUE.

4. THE FRG SUGGESTED THAT THE FORMER MINISTER OF JUSTICE OF UGANDA, WHO SPOKE DEFENDING HIS GOVERNMENT AT THE LAST HRC MEETING BUT IMMEDIATELY AFTERWARD DEFECTED AND IS NOW LIVING IN LONDON WRITING BOOKS DENOUNCING IDI AMIN, MIGHT BE INVITED TO ADDRESS THE HRC AND DENOUNCE HIS TESTIMONY OF LAST YEAR BEFORE THE SAME GROUP. THIS THREAT, HE SAID, COULD BE USED TO HELP PERSUADE THE UGANDANS TO ACCEPT A MILD RESOLUTION AND WORKING GROUP WITH INVESTIGATORY POWERS UNDER 1503 RATHER THAN RUN THE EMBARRASSMENT OF HAVING THE ISSUE BROUGHT UP SO DRAMATICALLY PUBLICLY.

5. THERE WAS SOME FEELING THAT PERHAPS THE UGANDANS COULD INDEED BE PERSUADED TO ACCEPT A MILD MEASURE UNDER 1603 RATHER THAN HAVE THE ISSUE GO COMPLETELY PUBLIC, BUT THAT ANY SUCH ARRANGEMENT WITH THEM WOULD HAVE TO BE THE RESULT OF CONSULTATIONS BEFOREHAND PERHAPS AT A HIGHER LEVEL THEN IN GENEVA.

6. COMMENT: A "CONTACT GROUP" COMPOSED OF CANADA, NIGERIA, AND SWEDEN-FINALND COULD BE INITIATED NOW IN NEW YORK, (ESPECIALLY WITH THE PRESENCE OF FOREIGN MINISTER GARBA OF NIGERIA HERE), AND COULD APPROACH THE UGNANDANS HERE OR IN KAMPALA AFTER THEY HAD AGREED UPON SUCH A MILD RESOLUTION. GARBA WILL BE IN NYC UNTIL APPROXIMATELY JANUARY 30.

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